

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-17 will be pending. Independent claim 1 is currently amended without introducing new matter, support being found, for example, in the figures, particularly in Figs. 2 and 4.

The present amendment is not intended nor believed to limit the previously pending claims in any way, since all subject matter apparently added is actually already present in the claims, either expressly or inherently. Instead, the changes are made merely to insure that the claims are properly interpreted in view of the specification.

The Office Action rejected all pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) as anticipated or unpatentable over US patent no. 4,196,674 to Van Laarhoven ("Van Laarhoven"). In response, Applicants traverse this rejection because, *inter alia*, it is respectfully submitted that van Laarhoven neither discloses nor teaches all the elements of independent claim 1.

Briefly, Applicants' claimed device (7 in Fig. 2) adjustably supports portable equipment (4 and 6 in Fig. 1), such as electrical test equipment, on a surface (22 in Fig. 4), such as a table or bench, at one or more elevation angles. The device includes a substantially planar supporting plate (8 in Fig. 2) for holding the equipment and a substantially planar supporting frame (12 in Fig. 2) for supporting the supporting plate. The device is supported on the surface along a first edge (21 in Fig. 4) of the supporting plate and along a first edge (20 in Fig. 4) of the supporting frame; the second parallel edge of the supporting plate (top of 8 in Fig. 4) being preferably free, while the second parallel edge (31 in Fig. 4) of the supporting frame moveably engaging the supporting plate. The elevation of the supporting plate is adjusted by moving the supporting frame along the supporting plate (Fig. 4-7 generally). A lever (18 in Fig. 4) is pivotally attached (19 and 23 in Fig. 4) to both the supporting plate and supporting frame and provides device stability when the supporting plate is elevated.

When the supporting plate is elevated, the device has a shape generally similar to an "A" (Fig. 2 generally): the left leg of the "A" is the supporting plate (8 in Fig. 2) which usually

extends above the top of the "A"; the right leg of the "A" is the supporting frame (12 in Fig. 2); and horizontal portion of the "A" is the lever or levers (18 in Fig. 2). Thus claim 1 recites:

when said first ends of said supporting plate and said supporting frame are placed on a surface with said supporting plate elevated, a substantially triangular cross-section is outlined by said surface, said supporting frame and said supporting plate, said triangular cross section being spanned by said lever from said supporting plate to said supporting frame.

Van Laarhoven does not teach or disclose any of these recited elements. This reference is directed to a drafting board 22 supported on a surface by table base 21 and adjustable to various vertical positions and also to various inclinations (Van Laarhoven, col. 1, lines 53-60). In contrast, the supporting device of the present invention is adjustable only to various angles of elevation. Next, accepting *agruendo*, as proposed in the Office action, that Van Laarhoven's supporting plate is identified by members 35 and 36 and Van Laarhoven's supporting frame by members 30, 32, and 38,¹ then neither Van Laarhoven's supporting plate nor his supporting frame are supported on the surface along one edge. Instead, supporting plate 35 and 36 is freely supported above the supporting frame 30, 32, and 38, and is in contact only with its supporting members 38 and 45. And supporting frame 30, 32, and 38 also is not supported on a surface along an edge, but by table base 21 which is in turn supported on the surface.

Further, Van Laarhoven's supporting frame 30, 32, and 38 does not have a substantially planar arrangement. Instead, member 38 pivots out of the plane of members 30 and 32.

Finally, because of these substantial differences, Van Laarhoven's drafting table does have an "A" shape of any type; it does not outline any triangle spanned by a lever, much less a triangle having the surface as one edge. Instead, Fig. 2 clearly illustrates the disclosed drafting table, however positioned, outlines a quadrilateral shape. The bottom side of this quadrilateral is outlined by base rail and flange members 30 and 32; the top side is outlined and by board rail and flange members 35 and 36; the right side by positioning member 38; and the left side by link

¹ The Applicants submit that, in fact, link member 38 cannot be properly interpreted in view of the specification as part of the Applicants' recited supporting frame. This interpretation is accepted herein only to remark that, even so interpreted, Van Laarhoven still does not disclose all the elements of the Applicants' claims.

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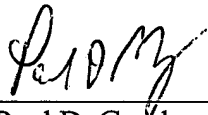
member 45. No operable combination or arrangement of Van Laarhoven's members can outline the "substantially triangular cross section" recited in claim 1.

In conclusion, for the above reasons, Van Laarhoven does not disclose or teach each and every element either of independent claim 1, or of dependent claims 2-17 which inherit the patentable subject matter of claim 1. Thus, this reference does not anticipate nor make obvious any of these claims, and withdrawal of the present rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all the Examiner's objections and rejections have been addressed and that all of the claims in the present application are allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the claims be reconsidered and passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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